

Mr. Lea exhibited specimens of *Eozoon Canadense*, received from Mr. Billings, of Montreal, in rough, polished and dissected states. A discussion ensued, in which Prof. Hayden, Dr. Le Conte, Mr. Barnes, Judge Hare, and Mr. Lesley took part.

Pending nominations Nos. 541, 547, 548, 549, were read and balloted for, and there being no further business, the presiding officer announced the following persons duly elected members of the Society.

Dr. Pliny Earle, of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Dr. Owen Jones Wister, of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Thomas Davidson, of Brighton, England.

Dr. Fridolin Sandberger, of Wurtzburg, Bavaria.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, May 4, 1866.*

Present, sixteen members.

Vice-President Prof. CRESSON, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Dr. O. J. Wister, dated Germantown, April 25th.

A letter from Mr. J. R. Snowden, Secretary of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, requesting facilities for Mr. Edw. Armstrong to examine sources of information on the subject of the life of the late Mr. Duponceau, was read, and on motion of Dr. Wood the request was granted.

A letter respecting the publication of a treatise upon the laws of the French Language was received from Prof. E. Taliaferro, dated College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., April 25th.

A photograph of Prof. S. S. Haldeman was presented by Dr. Le Conte, for the Album.

Donations for the Library were received from Sig. Lombardini, Dr. Schinz, the Bureau of Mines, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, Dr. B. A. Gould, Prof. W. A. Norton,

Dr. Wirtz, of New York, Hon. W. D. Kelley, the Medical News, and the Young Men's Association of Buffalo.

Mr. Peale exhibited specimens of Indian pottery of the stone age, recently obtained near the Little Falls of the Potomac, and presented a photographic picture of them grouped.

The use of steatite or soapstone, clinochlore, a variety of serpentine, and of magnesian rocks, among the aborigines, during the stone age in this country, is demonstrated by the numerous fragments of vases, pots or mortars, found in many places frequented by them, but it is rare that perfect or unbroken vessels of this kind are left to us, as evidence of the status in civilization of these primitive people. The reason of this rarity may be found in the fragile character of the mineral, and their entire abandonment the moment an iron or brass vessel comes into possession. It is therefore with great satisfaction that I submit to the inspection of the members the examples before you.

The smallest of the two is analogous in material to the soapstone of the old quarry on the Schuylkill near Manayunk, but its origin is unknown to me, further than that it was contributed to the Great Central Fair, from whose sales it came into my possession by purchase.

The large vessel, made of a kind of greenstone trap as it appears, is of the usual oval form, thirteen and a half inches long, nine wide, and four and a half deep inside, and is capable of containing a half gallon of liquid, with sufficient margin left for ebullition. Other specimens which have been saved to us in imperfect condition are generally of the same form, and make it evident that the specimens before the Society, conform to and constitute the type of these vessels generally.

The steatite of which many vessels were made was doubtless selected principally on account of the ease with which it could be worked, by the use of flakes of jasper or hornstone, and retain marks of the employment of such materials both in the interior and on the exterior of their surfaces; it is true, that it is a poor conductor of heat, but it is equally so, that after being heated it would retain an elevated temperature a long time.

The projections at the ends were undoubtedly made for convenience in handling, and it may be to support the vase when placed on blocks or stones over a fire, for which purpose also, holes were sometimes perforated near the edge or rim, through which holes strips of skin,

or filaments of other materials, were passed in order to suspend the vessels. Several fragments in my collection are thus perforated.

In the more carefully worked articles, these projections are neatly and symmetrically formed, as shown by the smaller fragment, which is one of these projections. It appears to be evident that generally these vessels were left rough from the stone tools with which they were made, but in some instances they were smoothed to an extent nearly meriting the term polished, of which the fragment under consideration is an example.

The larger fragment also exhibits the above noticed projection, and the curved, oval form, alluded to in a preceding part of this communication, and was made of a magnesian rock, somewhat resembling steatite; through it is disseminated a considerable amount of sulphuret of iron.

It is probable that the large vase was used not alone as a cooking vessel, but served a double purpose by the aid of a pestle, for crushing or pulverizing food, a conclusion justified by the smooth or worn appearance of the bottom of the cavity, and still further by the tradition, that the pestle herewith exhibited was found within the vase.

This vessel was found on the farm of Mr. Robert H. Donaldson, near the Little Falls of the Potomac in Virginia, in whose possession it has remained for many years, serving the purpose of a receptacle for the food of his poultry, not in this instance to be considered a degradation, as it has saved it from destruction, the usual fate of such articles when not protected by the intelligence or better feeling of those in whose hands they remain after the Race which made them has departed. For this specimen we are indebted to the laudable good sense of the above-named gentleman.

A discussion of the subject ensued in which Dr. Le Conte expressed his opinion that the mere presence of metal was non-essential where the metal was used as a natural product precisely as stone had been used, and without any metallurgical skill; as in the case of the iron arrow heads now used, indiscriminately with obsidian arrow heads by the savages of California, the iron being merely fragments of tire iron found abandoned by the emigrants upon the plains; or as in the case of the meteoric iron used by the Esquimaux.

The Committee of Finance reported that the claim of the Society for certain coal lands in Northumberland County has been compromised and settled. One thousand dollars (less

fees) has been paid into the treasury, and the remaining three thousand dollars has been properly secured.

The Committee of Conference appointed to confer with a committee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, was on motion discharged from further consideration of the subject, inasmuch as the committee of the Academy had been previously discharged.

On motion of Dr. Le Conte the Secretaries were authorized to procure a suitable album for preserving the photographs of the members.

And the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, May 18, 1866.*

Present, sixteen members.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Dr. Pliny Earle, dated Northampton, May 5th, 1866.

Letters of invoice were received from the Holland Society at Haarlem, and Prof. J. D. Whitney, San Francisco, April 16th, 1866.

Photographs of Thomas U. Walter, Dr. John Morgan, and Mr. Robert Briggs, were presented for insertion in the Album. The photograph of Dr. Morgan was from J. R. Lambden's copy of a portrait by Angelica Kauffmann.

Donations for the Library were received from the Geographical Societies at St. Petersburg and Paris, the Academy at Berlin, Prof. Zantedeschi, the Observatory of San Fernando, the Society of Sciences at Haarlem, the Boston Natural History Society, the Editors of the American Journal of Science, the Franklin Institute, Smithsonian Institution, Prof. J. C. Cresson, Prof. J. D. Whitney, and various booksellers.

A communication was offered for publication in the Transactions, entitled "On Fucoids in the Coal," by Leo Lesque-